

Church of Scotland General Assembly
Colonial Committee

COLONIAL SCHEME.

DISTRIBUTION OF FUNDS.

DRAFT OF A PROPOSED MINUTE.

April, 1866.

THE Colonial Committee, having had under consideration the manner of distributing the funds intrusted to them, find that their expenditure for the most part falls under five heads:—

- (1.) The payment of salaries to missionaries at the rate of £150 sterling a-year.
- (2.) The payment of supplement to the stipends of ministers, in sums varying from £25 to £150 a-year.
- (3.) The payment of the outfit and passage-money of missionaries and ministers.
- (4.) The payment of grants in aid of church buildings.
- (5.) A special annual grant of £550 to Queen's College, Kingston, Canada.

They find further—I. That since they began to make grants for the purpose of promoting the religious interests of Scottish Presbyterians in the colonies, all the colonies aided by them have made great advances in wealth and prosperity, and that the Presbyterian Church in them has been organized and consolidated. So great is the advance made in some colonies, that they have spontaneously ceased to expect pecuniary aid from the home Church; while, in others, there is a growing ability to supply their own wants. Facts might here be cited with reference to the colonies of Canada, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, British Guiana, and Ceylon, which substantiate the opinion of the Committee.

II. That in the present state of the colonies the Committee's practice of sending missionaries to districts destitute of ordinances, and of aiding weak congregations, is unsatisfactory, because the

information sent to them is very frequently fragmentary and inadequate. Their decision on each case they believe to be fully justified by the facts actually before them ; but these facts can only state a part of the case, may be one-sided, and can never be fully comprehended in all their local significance by a Committee deliberating at so great a distance from the colony.

III. That in these circumstances it is desirable that some means be devised of guaranteeing, in an unmistakable way, the statements forwarded to them, of fixing beyond question the comparative necessities of the various claimants for aid ; and, further, of promoting such an organisation of resources in the colonies themselves, as will encourage and enable the strong to help the weak.

IV. That accordingly, they resolve, after the close of the current financial year, to make grants in aid of the Church in the colonies, only in the form of contributions in supplement of grants made by the Colonial Synod or a Committee of Synod, and where a Synod does not exist, by the Presbytery or a Committee of Presbytery ; reserving to themselves power to recognise, where necessary, Colonial Home Missionary Associations on the same footing as if they were a Committee of the Synod or Presbytery, when they are advised by the proper ecclesiastical authority to do so.

V. That while leaving it to the colonial churches to adopt their own rules as to making grants, the Committee resolve that these grants shall in future have reference to the sum voted in each particular case by the Colonial Church, or its representative association.

VI. That requests for missionaries, as well as for aid to ministers and churches, be communicated through the Colonial Missionary Association, or Committee of Synod or Presbytery, as the case may be, and be entertained by the Colonial Committee here only after the said Association or Committee have resolved to grant a reasonable proportion of the total sum required in each case ; and that the same rule apply to all other grants whatsoever, with the exception of the present grant to Queen's College, Kingston, Canada ; and payments for passage and outfit.

VII. That colonies in which no Synod or Presbytery exists be exempted from the operation of the above Minute.

VIII. That a printed copy of this proposed Minute be sent to certain members of the Church in the Colonies, with a view to obtain their opinion on it.

S. S. L.

The Committee have received the following Memorial from Queen's College, Canada, requesting an increase of the annual grant made to the College, with a view to facilitate the training of a Native Colonial Ministry.

EXTRACT from the Proceedings at a Meeting of the BOARD of TRUSTEES of QUEEN'S COLLEGE at KINGSTON, held on the 31st January, 1866.

The Board, in view of the requirements of the College and the Church in regard to the imperative need of additional aid for the teaching department of the Theological Faculty of the College, agree to transmit the ensuing memorial to the Colonial Committee of the Church of Scotland, soliciting their aid in the establishment of an additional chair in the Theological Faculty.

Extracted from the Minutes of Proceedings by

W. IRELAND,
Secretary to Board of Trustees.

To the Members of the COLONIAL COMMITTEE of the GENERAL ASSEMBLY of the CHURCH of SCOTLAND.

GENTLEMEN,—The Trustees of Queen's College have had their attention specially directed to the improvement of the Theological department by an increase in the number of Professors. The exceeding desirableness of adding at least one to the present staff has long been to them quite apparent, but has at length become particularly urgent. This view they believe to be entertained by the whole Church, and indeed the correctness of it must be obvious to any one who gives it the least consideration.

The numerous and varied subjects which belong to the department are at present divided between the Principal and Professor Mowat. Of the former, two hours' teaching per day are required, and upon him devolves, besides, the labour, anxiety, and responsibility connected with the general superintendence of the College. This combination of duties is oftentimes too embarrassing, and experience shows it to be incompatible with a proper devotion to the work of teaching and a due regularity in its performance on the one hand, and with the amount of attention demanded by matters relating to the efficiency and improvement of the institution on the

other hand. The latter finds it necessary to devote five hours daily to his prelections on the extremely important subjects of Oriental Languages, Biblical Criticism, and Ecclesiastical History. This implies a severity of labour which, in the opinion of the Trustees, ought to be lessened as soon as possible.

Without determining at present what might be the most advisable arrangement in the event of a new professorship being established, the Trustees suggest, by way of example, that the subjects of Systematic Theology and Church History might be combined, one hour per day being devoted to each—thus diminishing by one the number of subjects taught by Professor Mowat, and leaving to the Principal one daily lecture on Evidences, Pastoral Theology, Apologetics, &c.

The characteristics of the age, the present state of theological discussions, and the constantly increasing sources of information upon all points of Biblical inquiry, may be mentioned in support of the necessity of introducing more teaching character and power into the department, while the additional advantages thereby to be gained by candidates for the ministry are worthy of special consideration.

The health of the late lamented Principal Leitch broke down under the pressure of work and anxiety connected with his office. From the same cause the health of Principal Snodgrass gave way towards the close of last session, and for a considerable portion of the present session he has been laid aside from duty. These are reasons less general than those already mentioned, but they have no less important significance and weight.

The Trustees feel sure that, to the members of your Committee as to themselves, the whole question resolves itself into a question of practicability of funds. Principal Snodgrass has represented to the Trustees his willingness to be satisfied with a reduced salary on the obtaining of relief from a portion of his duties, and has made an offer whereby one hundred pounds currency would become available for the support of another professor. An additional sum of two hundred pounds sterling, with the hope that after two or three years the Trustees might be able, by an improvement in the ordinary revenues of the College, to increase it, would, it is believed, suffice to secure the services of a competent professor.

From the broad views always entertained by your Committee of the utility and importance of Queen's College to the Church in Canada, and the liberal manner in which expression has been uniformly given to them, the Trustees entertain no doubt but that this representation will receive your hearty sympathy, and be allowed to affect in its behalf the disbursement of your funds on Canadian account.

As the interests involved are purely ecclesiastical, and as they bear most intimately upon the welfare of Presbyterians in the British North American provinces—for the education afforded by Queen's College is not confined to young men belonging to Canada—this Board, constituted as it is of ministers and laymen from all parts of the colony, feel confident that they are acting for the good of the Church, as well as truly representing public sentiment, when they crave for this Scheme, to the extent indicated, a place in your annual expenditure, even if thereby some reduction in your allowances for other purposes in this country should be rendered expedient.—I have the honour to be, Gentlemen, your most obedient Servant,

JNO. HAMILTON,
*Chairman of the Board of Trustees
of Queen's College.*

QUEEN'S COLLEGE, KINGSTON,
31st January, 1866.

The Committee have also received an urgent request to contribute, in the shape of an annual grant, towards the formation of a Theological Hall in the Synod of Nova Scotia.

These fresh demands on the Committee make the consideration of the best means of distributing the funds which the liberality of the Church furnishes to them a matter of urgent importance—the best means being such means as will most surely and rapidly give increased stability to the Church in the colonies, and promote its ultimate independence of home aid.

Previous to the receipt of the communication from the Chairman of the Board of Trustees of Queen's College, a Sub-Committee of the Colonial Committee, having taken the above questions into their consideration, gave in the following

REPORT.

The Sub-Committee appointed by meeting of Colonial Committee, held 17th January, 1866, having, in terms of Minute of their appointment, carefully perused and considered—(1), A letter from Rev. Allan Pollok of Pictou, dated 31st October, 1865 ; (2), A letter from Very Rev. Principal Snodgrass of Kingston, of 13th December, 1865 ; and (3), Draft of proposed Minute as to new mode of administering mission funds for behoof of the Colonies—beg respectfully to report as follows :—

I. “That Mr. Pollok, in name of the Synod of Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island, and seemingly with concurrence of the Synod of New Brunswick, represents the great importance to the Church in the Lower Provinces of Canada, of a Divinity Hall being established in connection with Dalhousie College, which has at present professorships only for literary and scientific studies, at Halifax, Nova Scotia. He states that, with the exception of two brethren who have latterly recommended delay, the two Synods are unanimous in requesting the Colonial Committee's co-operation and assistance in the matter, to the extent of contributing a similar sum to what is given annually to the Professor of Divinity in Kingston College, Upper Canada. The two Synods in the Lower Provinces are ready to undertake each to raise £100 annually, towards the remuneration, or temporary supply of the pulpits of two of their brethren having congregational charges, who could do professorial work during a proposed summer session of three months ; and they suggest that the Professor of Divinity, whom they ask the Colonial Committee to appoint and pay, might, besides presiding generally over the Hall during session, be of much service as superintendent of missions in room of the late Rev. J. Martin.

Mr. Pollok urges a variety of considerations which in his view render the proposed institution of a Divinity Hall for the Lower Provinces necessary to the prosperity, if not to the existence, of

the Church of Scotland branch of the Presbyterian Church there. He mentions the somewhat startling fact that, while during the last twelve years the Colonial Committee have sent out twelve missionaries to the Synod of Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island, or on an average one yearly, precisely the same number of them have left the bounds of the Synod, which he can only explain by supposing either that they had been superior men to what could be suitably provided for in so poor a colony, or of such unpopular gifts as to call forth little support from the community. He contrasts the prosperity of "the other Presbyterian body" in Nova Scotia, which it is presumed consists of an amalgamation of Frees and U.P.'s, having a Divinity Hall, with the barely stationary condition of the Church of Scotland Synod without such adjunct,—stating that in 1841 "the other Presbyterian body" had twenty-four ministers, and the Synod in connection with us twenty-three—while the former has now above one hundred, and the latter not quite so many as in 1841; but, as obviously important facts—such as the intervening Secession in 1843—are overlooked, this contrast is of little use. He anticipates greater good from a Divinity Hall in the Lower Provinces than has been hitherto realised, or can be expected, from the similar Hall at Kingston,—the average yearly number of licentiates during the last six years from the Kingston Hall having been only *five*, and the secular openings for clever young men in Upper Canada being numerous and tempting; whereas throughout Nova Scotia a much larger number of eligible candidates for the ministry could readily be obtained were the facilities for study increased by the institution of an easily accessible Divinity Hall. Mr. Pollok adds that accommodation for classes could easily be obtained in three large rooms connected with St. Matthew's Church, Halifax, and that the late Rev. Mr. Martin having bequeathed a very fine library for their future Divinity Hall, they have not everything to provide; and that, moreover, so soon as the subscriptions for the endowment of one of the literary professorships in Dalhousie College are fully gathered in, they would forthwith set about doing something towards endowing the Professorship of Divinity, and thus relieve the funds of the Colonial Committee of the annual sum which the Synods are now soliciting.

II. That Principal Snodgrass, feeling his present duties as Principal and Primarius Professor of Divinity too onerous for him, expresses an anxious desire that an additional Professorship in the theological department be instituted, so as to relieve him of some of his tutorial work. To facilitate this, he says he has offered, to the Trustees of Kingston College, to hold himself "responsible for a moiety of salary—one hundred pounds"—to such additional professor; meaning obviously, however (from what afterwards appears), by the word *moiety*, not a half, but a portion, of what is to be given as such professor's salary. He regrets to find that the Trustees cannot provide the necessary additional sum, which he thinks should be £250 added to the £100, for which he would hold himself responsible; and he expresses a sanguine hope that the Colonial Committee will contribute either the whole £250 or £200 of what is needed, even although the current expenditure in behalf of the Canadian Church should be otherwise lessened to that extent, which latter alternative, if necessary, he believes would be preferred by the Canadians.

It appears from the Principal's letter that there is already one other professor in the theological department of Kingston College, but he gives no hint as to what particular branch of tuition he would devolve upon the additional professor; nor does he furnish any evidence that the Synod of Canada either are urgent for the institution of another theological professorship, or would prefer the sum named to be expended thereon to its being applied to the furtherance of more immediate missionary work.

III. That the Secretary's Draft Minute proposes (sect. vi.) that henceforward "requests for missionaries as well as for aid to ministers and churches be communicated through" a "Colonial Association or Committee of Synod or Presbytery, as the case may be, and only after the said Association or Committee have resolved to grant a reasonable proportion of the total sum required in each case; and that the same rule apply to all other grants whatsoever."

It appears to the Sub-Committee that the information necessary to guide the Committee to a right deliverance on the applications made by Mr. Pollok and Principal Snodgrass respectively, being in some respects defective, and instant action not being absolutely essential, it may be well first to consider the scheme propounded

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in the Secretary's Draft Minute; and then if this is substantially approved of and recommended to the General Assembly for adoption, it may be sufficient reply for the present to both reverend gentlemen, to send them copies of this Minute, with a request that, in any further communications they may make to the Colonial Committee, it will be necessary that its provisions be had respect to.

It might at the same time be well to ask Mr Pollok whether the Synods of the Lower Provinces could not send their students of theology to *Kingston* College, where a fuller staff of professors might be maintained, instead of sending them to a scantily equipped faculty of divinity at Halifax; but if they prefer the latter, to mention some of the reasons for the preference.

And as regards Principal Snodgrass's application, it might be well to desiderate evidence of the Synod's active concurrence in his views as to the urgent need of the third professorship, which could best be given by their contributing the larger portion of the funds needed, instead of simply asking the Colonial Committee to add to their past liberality.

The above statement is printed by order of the Colonial Committee, and is now being circulated among the members for their information.

EDINBURGH, April 21, 1866.